

Lesson Classification: UNCLASSIFIED

Lesson ID: 25718-39200

Title: THE USE OF CELLULAR PHONES IN CIVIL DISTURBANCE

Operation/Exercise Name: SPMAGTF LOS ANGELES 92 Observed: 06 May 1992

Originator: G-6, 1ST MARDIV

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5. (U) OBSERVATION:

CELLULAR TELEPHONES PROVIDE A TREMENDOUS COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY FOR SMALL UNITS OPERATING IN AN URBAN ENVIROMENT.

6. (U) DISCUSSION:

ALL MAJOR US METROPOLITAN AREAS HAVE DYNAMIC REDUNDANT TELEPHONE SYSTEMS THAT PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT MEANS OF COMMUNICATIONS. IN ADDITION TO THE NORMAL TELEPHONE SYSTEM CELLULAR TELEPHONE NETWORKS ENABLE LARGE NUMBERS OF MOBILE SUBSCRIBERS ACCESS TO THE EXISTING TELEPHONE SYSTEM. ACCESS TO THE LOCAL TELEPHONE NETWORKS PROVIDES READY ACCESS TO VARIOUS LAW ENFORCEMENT AND EMERGENCY SERVICE ACTIVITIES IN A UNITS AREA OF OPERATIONS.

7. (U) LESSON LEARNED:

UNITS ENGAGED IN CIVIL DISTURBANCE OPERATIONS IN URBAN AREAS SHOULD HAVE ACCESS TO CELLULAR TELEPHONE EQUIPMENT DOWN TO THE SQUAD LEVEL.

8. (U) RECOMMENDED ACTION:

PROCEDURES FOR SHORT NOTICE ACQUISITION OF CELLULAR TELEPHONE INSTRUMENTS AND ACCESS SERVICES SHOULD BE ESTABLISHED AS PART OF A STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURE OR OPERATIONS PLAN.

9. (U) COMMENTS:

NONE

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